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It is asserted that if the Hepburn bill
providing for the construction of the Ni-
caguan canal by the United States govern-
ment becomes a law a most important in-
ternational question will arise, as other
nations may not consent to such entire con-
trol as government ownership involves.

The sixty fourth-class postmasters in
Carroll county, Maryland, who have lost
their business by the introduction of the
rural delivery service have prepared a pro-
test, in which many of the patrons unite.
There is notice of a meeting of postmas-
ters in one county in this State to consider
their own interests. Is this movement in
the same direction?

The decline in the stocks of the Ameri-
can Sugar Refining Company the past few
days is due to the statement of the presi-
dent at the annual meeting of the stock-
holders that there is not yet the slightest
indication of a peaceful settlement of the
war between the trust and the independent
companies, which makes the future divi-
dend uncertain. This means that the
monopoly of the famous Sugar Trust no
longer exists.

It is generally admitted that Indiana has
the most complete common school system
of any of the States, Massachusetts not
excepted. This system is largely the result
of the experience and wisdom of educators
who are now living in the State. Such be-
ing the case it will appear to many that
the alleged decision of the Indianapolis
School Board, to refuse to consider the
applications of all Indiana educators for
the position of city superintendent is not
a wise one, particularly when it is based
upon an entirely fictitious assumption of
a hostility between what are known as the
State and the denominational colleges and
higher institutions of learning in Indiana.

General Buller's dispatch that he had
occupied the south bank of the Tugela river
may have caused some confusion in the
minds of those who thought he had been on
the south bank of that river since his re-
pulse by the Boers several weeks ago. His
former position was south of the Little
Tugela, while the one last occupied is on
the south bank of the main river, some dis-
tance west and north of his former posi-
tion. This brings him a few miles nearer
to Ladysmith and indicates a movement to
turn the Boers' right flank. The London
Times of yesterday, commenting on the
movement, says: "The absence of accu-
rate maps of the region in which our troops
are now moving is an extraordinary ex-
ample of the carelessness of our prepara-
tions for war." So it is, and all the more
because the Boers know the country with-
out maps.

The estimate made by Mr. Roberts, direc-
tor of the mint, of the world's output of
gold for 1900 approximates the estimates
of foreign experts. Mr. Roberts thinks the
output, even if the war in Africa continues,
will be at least \$20,000,000, while German
estimates place it at \$35,000,000. This would
exceed by considerably more than \$10,000,000
the average production of gold and silver
combined in the years between 1860 and
1870, before the so-called demonetization of
silver. Statistics show that within the last
twenty-eight years the world's production
of gold has been equal to two-thirds of the
production of nearly four centuries preced-
ing. In view of this greatly increased out-
put and the apparently exhausted de-
posits the alarming predictions of the in-
sufficiency of gold, of the appreciation of
its value and corresponding decrease of
other values must be assigned to the
lumber room of bimetallic arguments.
Nature abhors a vacuum, and she is evi-
dently prepared to do her part toward pre-
venting a failure of the gold supply.

Inasmuch as the Art Association was de-
termined not to put the art building down-
town, it might as well have taken the
Fairbank-Kissel ground as to have stopped
half way. The Talbott property is a good
location in its way, but if the association is
looking after space and picturesqueness, as
seems to be the case, the first named loca-
tion would better meet the requirements.
There is no doubt that general public
opinion has favored a downtown building,
but since the matter has been decided
otherwise, discussion need no longer go on.
The fact remains, however, that an art
museum away from the crowded center is
not the educative force in any city that it
should be. It is frequented by a limited
circle of artists and their friends—in, in
fact, a clubhouse, rather than a place
which the public visits familiarly. How
many Indianapolis visitors to Cincinnati—
even though they are art lovers—make it a
point to go to the Art Museum out on the
hill? And have they not been known to re-
turn from New York without having vis-
ited the museum at Central Park, because
of the distance from downtown? The dis-
tance from Washington street to Sixteenth
street is not so great as in either of these
cases. It is true, but the effort to get there
is equally great, and the taste for art is

not sufficiently developed in any commu-
nity to lead the multitude out of its way to
gratify it.

GERMANY'S PROMINENCE.

During the past week a newspaper
printed a cartoon showing that Germany
held the balance of power in the con-
tinent of Europe. If it had included all
Europe on one side or the other of its
teeter board, with Germany in the center,
the cartoon would not be far from the
truth. More than any other govern-
ment in Europe Germany, by its power
and position, has influence in relation to
peace or war in that continent. If it were
a question of war, Germany could scarcely
be neutral, and when it should take
sides the opposing interests would seek a
peaceful solution of the controversy. Wil-
liam is often called "the war lord" be-
cause he is prepared for war and attends
to the keeping up of a large army with
the best organization in the world. At
the present time he is for peace, and his
neutral attitude in regard to the war in
the Transvaal may help to check other
governments that might take part. And,
speaking of the Emperor, it may be said
that his course has been such the past
two or three years that those who give
intelligent attention to the world's politics
no longer ridicule him for his eccentricities.
Aside from his devotion to the ab-
surd doctrine that the king is God's agent
and can do no wrong, he is a most sagacious
statesman in all that affects the in-
terests of Germany.

It is a quite general opinion that if what
is somewhat vaguely called the Anglo-
Saxon influence does not dominate the
world at large Russia will do so. Those
who urge an Anglo-Saxon alliance usually
present its civilization against what they
depict as the semi-barbarism of Russia.
There does not seem to be any such al-
ternative. Russia holds vast domain and
the czar dominates more people in a solid
mass than any other ruler. It has vast
armies, but an inadequate navy. Russia is
not prepared for war. If it were prepared
for war and were anxious for it, it would
not have called the world's governments
to consider the czar's proposition in favor
of disarmament. With the mustering of
its armies Russia has accumulated a con-
siderable amount of gold for war pur-
poses, but that amount would not last long
in a war between great nations. Not
long ago Russia's agents were in the
money centers seeking a loan, ostensibly
to complete its trans-siberian Railway.
The masses of Russia are now taxed to
destitution; consequently, if it should en-
gage in a really serious struggle it would
be compelled to rely upon its credit, which,
in all probability, would fail.

It has been predicted upon vague re-
ports that Russia would seize this pre-
sented predicament of Great Britain to
attack the British Indian frontier. This
Russia cannot do until the completion of
its trans-siberian Railway, which cannot
be completed for two or three years. Then
it may be too late for Russia to send its
troops abroad. A struggle for the conquest
of India would be a naval war very large-
ly. If Great Britain is suffering disaster
on the land in South Africa it is yet
the mistress of the seas. It is a possi-
bility that Russia may conclude that it is
a favorable opportunity for it to punish
Japan for its impertinence in calling it to
halt in its designs upon the Korean penin-
sula, but, in this, Russia will consider the
chance of Japan and Great Britain being
allies, in which event the navies of the
two nations would strip the czar of his
ports and prestige in the Pacific. As all
these contingencies are involved, it is
probable that Russia will hesitate about
seizing Herat, as has been proclaimed.
What Russia might do if it were a wealthy
empire, with unlimited revenue, is one
thing, and what, as a borrowing govern-
ment, in time of peace, it dare do, is a
different proposition. With the controlling
influence of Germany in the affairs of
continental Europe, Russia should not
be considered as a menace to the civilized
world as a dominating power.

THE THEATRICAL SYNDICATE.

With all that has been said first and last
about the theatrical syndicate, a good
many people more or less interested in
stage affairs do not quite understand its
character and methods. For the benefit of
such Norman Haggood, the dramatic critic,
tells in the new International Monthly the
story of the organization. It is rather a
curious narrative. When the scheme was
being formed it was violently opposed by a
dozen or more leading actors, of whom Nat
Goodwin, Francis Wilson and Richard
Mansfield were the leaders. These men an-
nounced that they would not play in syn-
dicate houses; they made speeches before the
curtain; they had themselves interviewed,
and at every opportunity declared their
undying enmity to the trust. Then they be-
gan to weaken; Goodwin laid down his
arms first and entered into a contract with
the organization; Wilson was offered \$50,
000 for a half interest in his business by a
member of one of the firms composing the
trust and accepted the offer. Mr. Mansfield
reconsidered his position and accepted syn-
dicate terms. Of the original opponents
of the trust Mrs. Fiske stands alone,
having refused all overtures and resisted
all pressure. The others succumbed for
financial reasons. They could not secure
first-class theaters in which to produce
their own plays; in some cities even sec-
ond-class houses were not obtainable. In
fact, as Mr. Haggood says, "most of the
trouble between actors and the syndicate
has been over terms, and, in most cases,
when the players who talked most about
intelligence and freedom were offered more
money, they became silent." With a rea-
sonable certainty of regular employment
many actors are even willing to accept
lower rates of compensation. To the thea-
ters in the organization this advantage is
assured, namely: a full season, usually
thirty weeks of "attractions." They take,
it is true, such plays as the syndicate de-
sires, on the dates which it desires, but,
on the other hand, they receive an unbroken
succession of companies, with none of the
old-time idle weeks. Then why, everything
considered, is not the syndicate control bet-
ter for the actors and the public than in-
dependent management? It is not, Mr.
Haggood admits, quite the evil thing its
enemies have described it; nor, he says,
does it deserve the praise given it by its
friends. One evil is that it tends to medi-
ocrity both in plays and in histrionic tal-
ent. The ambitious young actor who wants
to be a star has little opportunity under
the combination system. "Almost the only

way to-day," says Mr. Haggood, "for an
American actor to become a star is to serve
faithfully in the Frohman ranks until he is
widely enough known to head a company;
and this is a poor way, because he cannot
then have a repertoire, but at best one part
a year. Where is the sense in a repertoire,
when more money can be taken in by one
play, at far less expense? The same prin-
ciple is at work in the selection of plays.
Nothing does more than the existence of
this powerful association, he says, to pre-
vent the growth of the American drama.
Charles Frohman, who almost alone sup-
plies it with plays, avoids risk by accepting
only dramas already tested abroad, or the
work of playwrights already established.
Nevertheless, the syndicate managers do
not reproduce great plays from abroad, as
those of Suderman, Hauptmann or Ibsen,
nor encourage anything in the serious line
from established American playwrights.
The reason for this, Mr. Haggood inti-
mates, is that they are themselves too
lacking in culture and taste to appreciate
the higher drama. Only actor-managers,
like the late Mr. Daly and like Mrs. Fiske,
encourage untried talent.

This critic thinks the theatrical trust will
fall to pieces of its own weight within a
few years, but that, until it does, or unless
it does, there is only one way open for the
improvement of the dramatic situation.
That is the establishment of theaters
owned by cultivated people, open to worthy
productions and provided with the nucleus
of a company with a repertoire. Through
this means a higher standard of taste
would be formed and the prestige of the
commercial element now in control be
lessened.

The theater is so important a part of
modern life that the problem of making it
at once a means of entertainment and of
inspiration is one that must necessarily be
considered sooner or later by the intel-
lectual and moral leaders of society. As
much interest should be taken in securing
for the youth of the day good comedy and
great drama as in providing clean, high
grade literature. It is a theater-going age,
and the stage should be brought to its
highest possibilities.

AN OLD CONTROVERSY RECALLED.

In an article in McClure's Magazine, ex-
Secretary Boutwell reopens the Blaine-
Conkling controversy. So far as these two
brilliant antagonists are concerned, Mr.
Boutwell throws no new light on the af-
fair. It arose in a debate in which Mr.
Blaine, while not in the right on the main
issue, defended a friend. In the clash Mr.
Blaine wounded the pride of Mr. Conkling.
In his early days in Congress Mr. Blaine
had many verbal contentions, which were
adjusted because he was conciliatory and
would go more than half way, but Mr.
Conkling refused to be conciliated. The
general drift of the article of Mr. Boutwell
is rather more favorable to Mr. Conkling
than to Mr. Blaine, but he makes two
points affecting General Garfield which are
novel, not to say startling. The first of
these is that when Mr. Conkling went to
Mentor early in October, 1880, after the
setback in Maine in September made the
defeat of General Garfield probable, Mr.
Conkling would not see Garfield alone for
a moment, so that there could be no sub-
sequent charge that a bargain was made
by which Mr. Conkling should have the
patronage of New York for his active par-
ticipation in the campaign. As a matter of
fact, the charge of a bargain was made
and persisted in by Mr. Conkling's friends,
but not by the senator himself, who was
above denying such an imputation upon
his party loyalty. There was no such bar-
gain.

The second novel statement of Mr. Bout-
well is much more important. It has been
given out, and is generally believed, that
Mr. Blaine as secretary of state was re-
sponsible for the appointment of Mr. Rob-
ertson as collector of New York. Mr.
Conkling's enemy, after President Garfield
had given Mr. Conkling assurance that
one of his factions should be appointed.
Mr. Boutwell asserts that this was not
the case. President Garfield had decided
to appoint a man satisfactory to Mr. Con-
kling. When those New Yorkers who helped
to nominate General Garfield heard of this
determination they sent him scores of
telegrams and letters charging him with
sacrificing his friends. While he was
wrought up with these charges of the
betrayal and sacrifice of his friends, Presi-
dent Garfield, on the spur of the moment,
sent the name of Mr. Robertson to the
Senate. Mr. Boutwell declares that when
Secretary Blaine heard of the action of
the President he was astounded and turned
pale, as he believed that it had been set-
tled that Mr. Conkling's man would be
nominated. Governor Boutwell avers with
the utmost positiveness that Mr. Blaine
had nothing to do with the nomination of
Mr. Robertson, and that in no sense was
he responsible for the act which led Mr.
Conkling to resign and use his influence
in 1884 to defeat Mr. Blaine. To his per-
sonal friends Mr. Blaine said he was not
responsible for Mr. Robertson's nomina-
tion, but after General Garfield's death he
could not possibly controvert the very
general conviction that he was responsi-
ble.

This action had a disastrous effect upon
the Republican party—sending Mr. Con-
kling into a half voluntary political exile,
embittering his life, and causing the de-
feat of Mr. Blaine in 1884, with all of its
personal consequences to him, from which
he never recovered. It is now a matter of
moderate interest, but in the interest of
truth in history and of justice to General
Garfield and Mr. Blaine, the real facts
should be ascertained regarding this most
unfortunate incident. Are there others
who have any positive information upon
this subject?

RECREATION A MARVELOUS CURE.

The modern doctor does not depend on
medicine alone to effect cures. In some
cases he prescribes recreation, a change of
scene or anything that will arouse his pa-
tient from a lethargic state. He bears in
mind the old saw, "All work and no play
makes Jack a dull boy." The patient may
be merely suffering from the effects of
overexertion of the brain, the stomach, or,
perhaps, the tongue, as occasionally hap-
pens with campaign orators and senators
who attempt to talk a bill to death. In any
of these cases a few days spent in rest-
ing, fishing or hunting will sometimes accom-
plish wonders in physical rejuvenation and
may even work mental reforms. Take, for
instance, Col. W. J. Bryan. He is an ex-
ample of what a change of scene, coupled
with recreation, may do. The colonel al-
most went himself out last fall talking

from special trains in vain effort to induce
all Kentucky Democrats to gulp the city
Goebel. Then he crossed into Ohio and
worked until the vocal chords became
strained in an attempt to convince Buckeye
mossbacks it was their duty to put a mil-
lionaire in the gubernatorial chair, not-
withstanding he had several times warned
them to beware the rich and plutocratic.
Next he made a tour of his own State and
broke down under the strain. Doctors ad-
vised rest.

Soon afterwards it was announced the
colonel would winter in Texas. An ad-
mirer provided him with a house, and be-
fore long he was installed at the home of
ex-Governor Hogg. What happened there
is still fresh in the memory of readers of
the daily press. The genial, three-hundred-
pound Mr. Hogg proved to be a good host
and a regenerative tonic for the emaciated
Nebraska. The breezy Texan planned al-
most a "midway plaisance" round of enter-
tainments and gambols for his guest. First
there was a reception in the legislative
halls of the Lone Star State; then a quest
for wild ducks, geese and brant; next a pot
shot at a bunch of hogs, which the colonel
was led to believe were peccaries, and later
a thrilling hunt for a panther, which was
described as a real "panther," but which
proved to be merely a tame puss of the
felis leopardus family. Between these ex-
cursions the colonel and his host gambled
in the back yard—frisked and frolicked
like boys, if the chroniclers have stated the
truth. Such innocent but athletic games as
leap-frog, "skinning the cat" and walking
on stilts were tried with more or less suc-
cess and sometimes corporal damage.
Wearing of these pastimes they climbed
trees, taught little porkers to walk on the
edge of planks, chased ganders about the
yard and even attempted to ride ostriches.

The result of all this was that Colonel
Bryan became stronger, physically and
mentally, than since the presidential be-
gan buzzing about his cranium a few
years ago. His backyard gambols hard-
ened the muscles, tightened the derma by
increasing the flesh, and quickened the ac-
tion of the blood corpuscles until they gave
him a ruddy color instead of the former
pallor. His mentality also gained in vigor
and clearness to such an extent that hopes
are entertained he may recover completely
from some of the delusions which have
long afflicted him. Before he went to
Texas Mr. Bryan was an ultra anti-impe-
rialist. He returned an ardent expansion-
ist, willing to extend the American eagle's
protecting wings over any land, provided
the inhabitants have the requisites of citi-
zenship. His contact with the sheep-ras-
ing Texans worked another mental change,
for he is reported as favoring a protective
duty on wool. Perhaps if the colonel can
be induced to spend a month among the
sound-money Democrats of the "enemy's"
country he may be cured of his sixteen-
one vagary. Then, if he will cultivate the
virtue of silence and settle down in some
quiet college town he may live to a good
old age, honored and respected like Grover
Cleveland. Recreation is a marvelous re-
medy, and it should be tried by Messrs.
Lentz, Sulzer, Altgeld, Boutwell, Pettigrew,
Allen and other statesmen of the "yellow"
order.

The Clark case, by which is meant the
fight which Senator-elect Clark, of Mont-
ana, is making for his seat, is likely to
become a celebrated one. The Senate com-
mittee on privileges and elections contains
some of the ablest men in the Senate, and
the investigation will be very thorough.
The charges of bribery are very direct,
and, if true, make a flagrant case. Mr.
Clark is one of the richest men in the
country, his income being estimated at
\$100,000 a year, the result of mining in-
vestments. Pretty much the entire popula-
tion of Montana seems to be divided into
Clark and anti-Clark camps, and every
man on either side is prepared to prove
that every one on the other side is a rascal.
About one hundred witnesses have
been subpoenaed, and the government will
pay the transportation of every one of
them from Montana to Washington, with
an allowance of \$3 per day for hotel ex-
penses. The Supreme Court of Montana
has already disbanded Clark's legal argu-
ments on the ground of bribery, but Clark's
friends claim that the action was partisan.
The sums which Clark is charged with
having paid for votes are generally \$10,000
and \$15,000 per vote, but one member of
the Legislature is charged with having re-
ceived \$30,000. The examination of wit-
nesses may occupy several weeks, and the
case is likely to become very tiresome.

Why is it that Supervising Architect Tay-
lor insists upon thrusting his plans for the
new postoffice upon the Indianapolis public
whether or not? Senator Fairbanks has de-
manded that unofficial architects shall have
the privilege of competition, but who among
them will be so foolish as to undertake the
making of plans while Taylor's purpose to
force the acceptance of his drawings is so
obvious? It may be that his plans will be
satisfactory and the best that can be ob-
tained, but if there is to be competition he
should enter it on an equal footing with
other architects and not be allowed to ex-
hibit his plans in advance, or to seek an
advantage in any way. Moreover, the ex-
hibition of the drawings in order to secure
an opinion from the public is not a proper
proceeding in any case. Only experts can
judge of the merits of architectural draw-
ings; in this case the experts must be
architects and men familiar with the needs
of courts, postoffice and other offices to be
accommodated in the structure. Architect
Taylor's impetuosity should be restrained.

Editor Buckley, of the Christian Advo-
cate, finds it necessary to warn his readers
against a wicked evangelist, who is going
up and down among the Methodist broth-
ers—and sisters—seeking who he may de-
ceive. After describing the man the editor
feelingly remarks: "It is a thankless task
to expose wolves in sheep's clothing. So
many persons have an idea that they can
tell from a man's tone and manner, his
tears and upward glances of his eye, that
he is a child of God. The most infamous
hypocrites that we have known have some-
times been thus furnished almost indubitable
evidence, judged by such uncertain standards
as those, that they were dwelling in the
'secret place of the Most High.' It seems
from this that the editor of a religious
paper has troubles all his own; the particu-
lar kind of rascal above described is not
often encountered by editors of the sinful
secular press. His field is elsewhere.

Henry James is at his best in his "Ap-
proach" of Robert Louis Stevenson's Les-
sons in the North American Review. It is
a bit of literature, and those who have
read the letters will enjoy it, and those who
read this essay first will determine to pos-
sess themselves of the Stevenson volumes
forthwith.

The Portland Oregonian celebrates itself
and its State in an illustrated annual of
local pictorial magnificence. Oregon is
quite a State, judged by these pictures and
statistics accompanying, and the Oregon-
ian does it credit.

A muscular crank walked into the Atlan-
ta Constitution office the other day and
proceeded to pull Port Frank L. Stanton's
hair with great violence. It is supposed
that he wanted to head him off from writ-
ing any more poetry.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

A Savage Revenge.

If I could catch the weather man—for
obvious reason—I'd make him parse-day
in, day out—old "Thomson's Seasons."

Not an All-Right Contract.

If we sat down at set of sun
To count the good deeds we have done,
The chances are—I dare to say—
We wouldn't oversleep next day.

The Mask.

Though man hath found all say a cheat,
Yet should he prize life's dear deceit;
Still let him smile and say 'tis fair,
Lest others drink of his despair.

Similar, but Superior.

"What is a phenomenal egotist?"
"A phenomenal egotist? Why, he is an
egotist who can make other egotists listen
to him when he has something valuable to
say."

An Affront to England.

"Mrs. Chic has recalled her invitations
for a Dutch supper."
"Somebody sick?"
"No; she happened to think it might look
as if she were backing up the Boers."

The Philippines Speech Engenders
Anxiety.

"I'm getting scared about impending re-
sponsibilities."
"What do you mean?"
"Why, things look as if Indiana were get-
ting to be the common-sense center of the
United States."

Footnotes.

True merit makes no noise; but that is
not a sign it doesn't enjoy noise.
Statesmanship is getting what you want
without letting the public know how you
got it.
The small boy who has no shoes in sum-
mer always manages to have skates in
winter.

Asking questions is folly; by standing
around long enough we hear all the facts
come out.

The worst trouble with a new life is that
we are expected to lead it with the same
old people.

A reputation for being capable is far
more disastrous to peace than a reputation
for being incapable.

After Christmas is over the mind the
average woman secretly begins worrying about
spring house-cleaning.

Many a woman is a society leader whose
husband doesn't know the difference be-
tween a dinner bodice and a shirt waist.

LITERARY NOTES.

James L. Whitney, the new head of the
Boston Public Library, speaks fluently
French, German, Spanish, Italian and
modern Greek. "The Ticknor Catalogue of
Spanish Literature" is one of his best
known biographical works.

Jerome K. Jerome takes his vacations on
a farm, where he becomes one of the day
laborers. He has studied agriculture both
from a theoretical and practical point of
view, and expects to publish a model
farm of his own next summer.

Charles Dickens once attempted to keep
a diary, which attempt did not, however,
meet with the success attained by Sam-
uel Peppys. The diary was begun on New
Year's day, 1833, but was abruptly dis-
continued on the 15th of January following,
with the entry: "Here ends this brief at-
tempt at a diary. I grow sad at the check-
ing of days, and don't feel like it. Keepers
of diaries, like poets, must be born, not
made."

Mr. W. D. Howells has returned to New
York after a lecture tour of six weeks. He
delivered nearly every night, on each ap-
pearance to a large audience, and even in
so brief a time he traveled many hundreds
of miles. It is doubtful if Mr. Howells will
repeat the tour, as he finds the work ex-
tremely exhausting. He will continue to
lecture, occasionally, however, in the
neighborhood of New York. At present
he is working on a series of short stories
with psychological themes.

Prof. Brander Matthews, of Columbia
University, has lately read, in New York,
a paper on "Literature as a Profession."
He defined the "profession of literature" as
"the calling of those who live by the
communication of ideas and emotions by
means of books." Chiefly, nowadays, we
should say "emotions," as the proportion
of "ideas" is small. A vast number, he
insisted, existed between a "man of letters"
and a "journalist," notwithstanding the
fact that the latter is bound up into books. Journalism
is done for the press, urged the speaker, lit-
erature for perpetuity. Professor Mat-
thews bore testimony to the generally
recognized fact that few men of letters
receive enough from their profession to
live on. Not two dozen men in this
country followed literature alone, he af-
firmed, and hardly a score were to be
found in England, in addition, however,
that is probably too narrow.

Boston has a new "Authors' Club." The
membership is to be limited to one hun-
dred, and the conditions are that the
would-be members shall have written
something worthy to be called literature.
The object is to have a good, social time,
and to become acquainted over the tea-
cups. Its first dinner was on Twelfth
Night, with Julia Ward Howe presiding.
It begins with forty members—are there
forty to say nothing of one hundred?
writers in Boston who have produced real
literature—among whom are Mr. But-
terworth, Mr. Herbert Ward, Mrs.
Ward, Mr. Charles Follen Adams,
Judge Robert Grant, Mr. J. T.
Trowbridge, Mrs. G. L. Le Baron
Graham, Miss Laura E. Richards, Oscar
Grosvener and Todd of Amherst,
President Hazard and Professors Coman,
Rates and Scudder, of Wellesley, Mr. Oscar
Fay Adams and Mr. Bliss Perry, but
has taken a few and joins no clubs.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

William Waldorf Astor's contributions to
England's war fund and hospital fund now
amount to \$80,000.

E. L. Godkin, former editor of the New
York Evening Post, says he formed his
style by a careful perusal of the speeches
of William H. Seward.

The Khedive of Egypt receives a salary
of \$500,000 a year and has also a large pri-
vate fortune invested in productive farms
and cotton plantations in the Nile delta.

A very valuable book is a Hebrew Bible
in the Vatican. In 1512 the Hebrews
brought it to Pope Julius II for its weight in
gold. It is so large and heavy that two
men can scarcely lift it, and it would have
weighed 100,000.

H. M. Moore, the president of the trust-
ees of Northfield (Mass.) Seminary, says
that not one dollar received from the hymn
books has ever been used by Mr. Moody
or Mr. Sankey for their own purposes.

but, on the contrary, every dollar received
from the hymn book fund has been used
to defray expenses of Mr. Moody's schools,
materially helping in the \$30,000 necessary
to be raised annually for their current ex-
penses.

The stand of colors won by Colonel Elmer
E. Elsworth's United States Zouave Cadets
in competition in Chicago in 1899, and the
next year on an extensive tour in the
United States and Canada, has been in-
trusted by the surviving members of the
company to the Chicago Historical Society
for perpetual keeping.

A rumor that the owners of the New York
Evening Post have determined on a rad-
ical change in the editorial policy of the
paper is based on the fact that the retire-
ment of Mr. Godkin, who was editor, has
already been followed by the retirement of
Joseph E. Bishop, who succeeded Mr. God-
kin, and who had the same ideas and meth-
ods.

Two students arrived at the Tuskegee
Normal and Industrial Institute at Tus-
kegee, Ala., a few days ago who had
walked there from their home in South
Carolina, a distance of 500 miles. They are
now at Tuskegee, where they will receive
instruction in their academic training. One
wants to be a carpenter and the other a
blacksmith.

"The portfolio of the navy," said Secre-
tary Long the other day, "entails some
hard work, but for my part I have never
known such hard work as I went through
with as a teacher, when for two years I
was connected with the Westford Academy
in Massachusetts. Since those days I have
always had the greatest sympathy with
and the highest admiration for the suc-
cessful instructor of youth."

The day of Lord Roberts's embarkation
for South Africa was the anniversary of
one of his greatest victories. Twenty years
before, on Dec. 23, 1879, he met and repulsed
the great Afghan attack on the lines of
Sherpur at Cabul, and, by his brilliant suc-
cess with a vigorous counter-attack, broke
up the Afghan army and set his own
forces free to keep their Christmas outside
the walls they had held so gallantly against
the besiegers.

Mr. Moody was strongly opposed to faith
healers. Not long ago in Westford he said:
"God heals through doctors and through
medicines. Do not be carried away through
ravings of fanaticism. We have a new
'ism' in America about every year—beware
of the 'isms'! What would I do if I felt
sick? Get the best doctor, and, if he fails,
trust to him and trust to the Lord to work
through him. The doctors have done won-
ders, but their knowledge has grown; they
have reduced the danger of death from
diseases that once slew all they touched;
and the doctors, if God helps them, will
find a way to stop the ravages of other
terrors."

Uncle George had a pretty toy
Piano to little Daisy;